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ABSTRACT

The goals and guiding principles of the Maryland State Library Network are defined by the State Library Network Planning and Resource Sharing Task Force. The following goals are asserted: (1) state residents will have improved access to the state's information resources through the work of a State Library Network Coordinating Council; (2) residents will be able to identify, locate, and request the information, materials, and services they need and will be eligible to use library services throughout the state; (3) residents will receive the materials, information, and services they need in a timely and efficient manner; and (4) state residents will have improved access to resources and information through use of new information technologies. These goals are to be implemented in light of the general situation of the state, the financial situation, the state of information technology, and the political situation. Specific objectives are listed in table form for each of the four goals. To clarify the context for resource sharing and automation, background information is provided on the state library network. (SLD)

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Toward the Year 2000

A Strategic Plan for the Maryland State Library Network

Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Library Development and Services

Prepared by the State Library Network Planning and Resource Sharing Task Force

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Toward the Year 2000

A Strategic Plan for the Maryland State Library Network

Prepared by
The State Library Network Planning and Resource Sharing Task Force

Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Library Development and Services
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 2120l

November l989

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PREFACE

The Strategic Plan prepared by the State Library Network Planning and Resource Sharing Task Force includes the following sections:

- A vision statement: Anticipating the Year 2000;
- The Network Mission Statement and Goals;
- Assumptions upon which the plan is based;
- Guiding Principles which will operate in the plan;
- The four goals and the objectives by which they will be accomplished;
- The Context for Resource Sharing and Automation, which describes the Network as it is now.

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MARYLAND STATE LIBRARY NETWORK

MISSION STATEMENT

The Maryland State Library Network will provide the residents of Maryland with rapid, easy access to information, materials, and services from any available information source.

GOALS

1. Maryland residents will have improved access to the state's information resources through the work of a State Library Network Coordinating Council that will actively foster and support that access by removing barriers to the Network and promoting cooperation among Maryland libraries.

2. Maryland residents will be able to identify, locate, and request the information, materials, and services they need and will be eligible to use library services offered throughout the state.

3. Maryland residents will receive the information, materials, and services they need through efficient, timely, appropriate, and diverse delivery methods.

4. Maryland residents will have improved access to the state's resources and information services through promotion and implementation of new information technologies.

SOME DEFINITIONS

1. The operational definition of "network" in this plan is the amalgam of cooperative activities that promote and enable resource sharing among libraries on behalf of their users, particularly the interlibrary loan of materials. Network participation includes both formal and informal arrangements.

2. **The term "public libraries," in the recommended actions under the objectives, includes public library systems, the Regional Library Resource Centers, and institutional libraries like those serving mental health hospitals and prisons.**

3. "Assumption," in this context, is a statement accepted or supposed true without proof or demonstration.

4. "Principle," as used here, is an essential element, constituent, or quality, especially one that produces a specific effect.

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MARYLAND STATE LIBRARY NETWORK

ASSUMPTIONS

This plan is based upon assumptions derived from prior experience with the State Library Network in Maryland, including its many facets and players; from knowledge of the current status of library automation in the state; and from observations of trends affecting libraries.

GENERAL SITUATION

- Maryland is rich in library and information resources; its residents have growing information needs and interests that must be met.
- Libraries' participation in the State Library Network is mutually beneficial, with the residents of Maryland being the final beneficiaries.
- Access to the State Library Network provides business and industry information to support and enhance economic development.
- Continuing and significant changes in information technology, political climate, and availability of financial resources require an ongoing review and continuing modification of this plan to ensure its timeliness and relevance.

FINANCIAL SITUATION

- State and federal funding will continue to play an important role in the provision of materials and services. Libraries must show their funding sources that materials and services are shared and made available to residents throughout the state.
- Local funding for libraries will remain stable, with steady increases to cover inflation in most cases.
- Federal funding for resource sharing among libraries will continue, particularly through programs like LSCA and HEA, although its extent and the priorities linked to the programs are subject to change.
- Different funding levels exist for school library media centers in the state; generally the funding is inadequate.
- The costs, numbers, and varieties of materials will continue to escalate and materials will often go "out of print" quickly. This reinforces the need for libraries of all types to cooperate with each other through resource sharing.
- Libraries will make concerted and pragmatic efforts to cooperatively develop their collections.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SITUATION

- Library users in Maryland will become increasingly sophisticated in their demands for, and use of, information technology in libraries and will expect to have remote (direct from home, school or workplace) access to library databases, information, and services.

- Libraries in Maryland have used diverse methods to approach automation, regardless of state policies and the amount of money available to be applied to the use of information technology.

- Information technology will continue to develop and change rapidly; hardware costs may decrease, while software costs may increase. Libraries will choose formats based on appropriateness and available funding.

- Information technology has reached the point where most Maryland libraries will incorporate automation into their operation in some format. The existence and continued expansion of the State Union Database and Network will encourage libraries to examine carefully how technology can be utilized most effectively on a local level.

- Developments in automation will lead to greater linking of databases within and among libraries, facilitating resource sharing.

- There will continue to be gaps in the degree of library automation and library services within the state.

- Telecommunications will play an important role in Network expansion and transmission costs; methodology must be examined.

- The Network and its participating libraries will actively cooperate with libraries and other networks outside Maryland in order to fill users' requests.

- Libraries will use automated systems to manage finances and to generate data needed to make sound management decisions.

POLITICAL SITUATION

- The State Library Network will continue to work to achieve equity in access to materials, information and services.

- The effectiveness of the State library Network is dependent on the continued existence of reciprocal agreements among the State's library systems and the spirit of goodwill that sustains them.

- The State Library Network will be served by an increasing number of resource centers, among which will be the Enoch Pratt Free Library (SLRC) and the Regional Library Resource Centers.

- The configuration of the libraries within the State Library Network will shift to accommodate changes in population, increasingly sophisticated document delivery through automation, and altered political realities.

- Schools, both public and private, will increasingly participate in the State Library Network.

- The State Library Network will increasingly interact with other specialized subject networks, i.e., medical, legal, technical.

- Maryland libraries' adherence to the U.S. Copyright Law will affect some of their resource sharing activities.

MARYLAND STATE LIBRARY NETWORK

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The continued success and further development of the State Library Network depends on the effective coordination and cooperation among Maryland libraries and the agencies that support them. The principles that support these activities include:

1. Fulfilling the user's request is the essence of the State Library Network.

2. The user should find access to materials, information, and services to be a simple and effective process, with completed requests supplied in appropiate formats.

3. Primary access to the State Library Network should be free and equitably available to all Maryland residents.

4. Delivery of services by libraries through the State Library Network should be effectively promoted.

5. Efficient and effective document delivery systems must continue to be developed, implemented, and promoted.

6. Building on already existing machine-readable data, the Statewide Union Database should continue to be expanded and developed to meet the needs and interests of its users.

7. The Statewide Union Database and the means to access and utilize it should adhere to national standards as applicable.

8. An online system of the state's bibliographic holdings used for resource sharing activities will handle the bulk of interlibrary loan request traffic.

9. The State Library Network will work toward developing interfaces among local library online systems.

10. Member libraries should agree to share the efforts and responsibilities of supporting Network activities.

11. Funds should be targeted for programs and projects that further the use of information technology in Maryland libraries and to achieve the goals of the State Library Network.

12. Staff in participating libraries should be appropriately trained to handle new systems and services.

13. The State Library Network will use technologies that facilitate direct use by patrons to meet their information needs.

14. Maryland libraries will uphold the citizen's right to confidentiality of all library records.

GOAL 1

Maryland residents will have improved access to the State's information resources through the work of a State Library Network Coordinating Council which will actively foster and support that access by removing barriers to the Network and promoting cooperation among Maryland libraries.

Objective 1.1 A State Library Network Coordinating Council will be established to coordinate Network planning, policy-making and functioning.

Rationale: A Network Coordinating Council will enable Network participants to share in the responsibility for the State Library Network. The size, complexity, and information technology possibilities require more input from the Network's participants. Currently no one group has the responsibility for coordinating the entire Network.

The Coordinating Council will be appointed in 1990 by the Maryland Advisory Council on Libraries, which the Governor appoints and represents all libraries. The Coordinating Council will work with the Network participants to determine the appropriate governance structure. Successive Coordinating Councils will be appointed according to rules to be set up by the first Coordinating Council.

Recommended Action

MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LIBRARIES

1) The Maryland Advisory Council on Libraries will appoint a State Library Network Coordinating Council with representatives from Network participating libraries.

Completion date: January 1, 1990

2) At the end of each operating year, the Coordinating Council will report to the Maryland State Departmentof Education, the State Board of Education, the Maryland Advisory Council on Libraries,and to other appropriate groups.

Completion date: ongoing, annually

Objective 1.2 **The State Library Network Coordinating Council will complete a report defining the responsibilities of each Network component.**

Rationale: Responsibilities of the existing components of the Network have not been clearly defined. The Council's first task will be to undertake the identification of the components and definition of the responsibilities of their roles. Among the components will be the Division of Library Development and Services, the State Library Resource Center and its Advisory Committee, the Regional Library Resource Centers and other primary groups. This is particularly important given the climate of rapid technological change, with all the new capabilities the state's libraries have that need to be effectively coordinated.

Recommended Action

STATE LIBRARY NETWORK
COORDINATING COUNCIL

The State Library Network Coordinating Council will define the purpose of the report, review the roles of the various Network participants, and prepare a report.

Completion date: October 1, 1990

Objective 1.3 **The State Library Network Coordinating Council will create and establish an organizational plan for the Network and determine the relationship between the Network participants and the Council.**

Rationale: Many Network participants feel strongly that there should be an organizational structure for the Network, as well as a means of affiliation with an identifiable Network organization. The Network currently does not provide the opportunities for participants' involvement, nor does it offer regular, substantive forums for discussing issues that affect the Network as a whole.

Recommended Action

STATE LIBRARY
COORDINATING COUNCIL

The State Library Network Coordinating Council will develop a statement of purpose for the membership organization; establish guidelines for membership, including rights and responsibilities; and develop any needed bylaws or other organizational rules.

Completion date: October 1, 1990

Objective 1.4 **The State Library Network Coordinating Council will study the funding requirements of the Network and make recommendations on the appropriate state responsibility for funding those activities in Maryland.**

Rationale: Funding for the ongoing support of Network activities at all levels is a continuing issue. Of particular concern are funding for the statewide union database and backup referral libraries, the costs of lending/borrowing, as well as support for telecommunications and other technology-related developments that affect the Network and the libraries that form it.

Recommended Action

STATE LIBRARY NETWORK
COORDINATING COUNCIL

The Coordinating Council will define a study of Network funding needs; undertake a study of those needs; review the study and discuss it with the Maryland Advisory Council on Libraries; prepare recommendations on the State's role and transmit them to appropriate officials.

Completion date: June 30, 1991

GOAL 2

Maryland residents will be able to identify, locate and request the information, materials and services they need and will be eligible to use library services offered throughout the state.

Objective 2.1 **By 1995, Maryland residents will be able to use their library cards in every publicly-funded library in the state.**

Rationale: Maryland's public library systems have reciprocal borrowing agreements and protocols that provide residents with access to the collections and services of each public library system in the state. Many community college libraries offer borrowing privileges to local residents, and it is anticipated that many college and university libraries will follow suit.

To simplify the borrower registration process among public library systems, a "statewide library card" will be implemented with compatible barcodes for automated online systems and the related policies, protocols, and procedures for effective use. Use of this "statewide library card" will also be encouraged among academic, school, and special libraries that make their collections available to non-affiliated residents. The effect will be to ease the way for residents to use more of the resources available in the state. Registration of the barcode ID numbers assigned to each library will be maintained to ensure that no duplicate IDs are used. There will not be a central patron database; each library will maintain its own patron barcode records.

This objective has some possible funding implications for libraries that have or plan online circulation systems. It also has important political implications, since it promotes the idea of statewide borrowing agreements under which Maryland residents would be able to register at publicly-funded libraries, like college and university libraries. Currently, residents are eligible to use all public library systems in the state.

Recommended Action

DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES	PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS	ACADEMIC LIBRARIES	SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS
1) DLDS, working with a representative advisory group and the public library systems, will determine a standard barcode format and related policies, protocols, and procedures to ensure use and acceptance of a "statewide library card" among all public library systems.	As public libraries automate or update their circulation systems, their online systems should accept the standard barcode in patron registration and participate in the related statewide borrowing agreements.	Academic libraries should consider implementing acceptance in their online systems of the standard barcode and using it in the registration of borrowers who might qualify, based on applicable agreements, to borrow from their institutions.	School library media centers should consider implementing acceptance in their online systems of the standard barcode and using it in the registration of borrowers who qualify, based on applicable agreements, to borrow from their institutions.
Completion date: December 1, 1990	Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing

CONT'D

Objective 2.1 By 1995, Maryland residents will be able to use their library cards in every publicly-funded library in the state.

DIVISION OF LIBRARY
DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES

2) DLDS, working with a representative advisory group, will encourage school, college, and university libraries to participate in statewide borrowing agreements and to adopt the standard barcode format in their online systems.

Completion date:

June 30, 1995

3) DLDS will investigate and implement, as appropriate, the registration of barcode ID numbers assigned to each Maryland library.

Completion date:
December 1, 1990

Objective 2.2 **By 1995, Maryland residents will have comprehensive and direct access to the bibliographic records of all publicly-funded institutions in the state.**

Rationale: Efficient and effective resource sharing in Maryland requires current and comprehensive locator tools that identify materials and which libraries own them. Currently the Statewide Union Catalog serves this function, in conjunction with systems like OCLC, RLIN, and the online systems of some Maryland libraries.

As libraries, particularly the publicly-funded ones, convert their records to machine-readable form, the records should be made available through the Statewide Union Catalog or by interconnection to other online systems, making them readily accessible by Network participants. Privately funded libraries are also encouraged to contribute their records.

Access to libraries' records and holdings in the Statewide Union Catalog should be "scoped" so that the user can search local holdings, one or more regional/consortium groupings, and finally the entire state catalog. The Catolog should be issued in formats affordable and useful to the wide spectrum of Network libraries.

Recommended Action

DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES	PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS	ACADEMIC LIBRARIES	SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS
1) DLDS, in conjunction with the State Library Resource Center (SLRC), will work with Maryland's publicly-funded institutions to add their machine-readable bibliographic records to the Statewide Union Catalog.	1) Public libraries that convert their bibliographic records to machine-readable form should make their records available to the Statewide Union Catalog Catalog on a timely and regular basis.	1) Publicly-funded academic libraries should contribute their machine-readable bibliographic records to the Statewide Union Catalog on a timely and regular basis. Private academic libraries are encouraged to do the same.	Publicly-funded school library media centers should contribute machine-readable bibliographic records to the Statewide Union Catalog on a timely and regular basis. Private schools are encouraged to do the same.
Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing

CONT'D

OBJECTIVE 2.2 By 1995, Maryland residents will have comprehensive and direct access to the bibliographic records of all publicly-funded institutions in the state.

DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES	PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS	ACADEMIC LIBRARIES	SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS
2) Working with the Network Coordinating Council and SLRC, DLDS will explore and implement the best means to make the Statewide Union Catalog available to all Maryland residents through libraries or by remote access from home or workplace.	2) Public libraries should promote the use of and educate users in the Statewide Union Catalog.	2) Academic libraries should promote the use of and educate users in the Statewide Union Catalog.	2) School library media centers should promote the use of and educate users in the Statewide Union Catalog.
Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing
3) Working with the State Library Resource Center, DLDS will promote the use of and educate users in the Statewide Union Catalog.			
Completion date: Ongoing			

Objective 2.2 **By 1995, Maryland residents will have comprehensive and direct access to the bibliographic records of all publicly-funded institutions in the state.**

CONT'D

STATE LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER

1) SLRC will maintain the Statewide Union Catalog and work with all libraries that contribute their machine-readable bibliographic records to it to ensure the currency and accuracy of the catalog.

Completion date: Ongoing

2) SLRC will promote the use of and educate users in the Statewide Union Catalog.

Completion date: Ongoing

Objective 2.3 All libraries contributing to the Statewide Union Catalog will submit their machine-readable records in standard MARC format.

Rationale: The Statewide Union Catalog (MICROCAT, OLDCAT, and ULPM) currently has 80 percent of its records in MARC format, the national standard for machine-readable records used in library automation programs. As the catalog gets larger, the possibilities for searching it become more sophisticated, and producing catalogs from it becomes more complicated. It is important that the MARC format is the standard for records accepted for inclusion in the catalog.

The MARC format is also the standard for most library automation vendors, and it should be adopted by Maryland libraries that are automating their operations. Use of the MARC format will also help efforts to provide remote access to local online systems, as it ensures that each library's bibliographic records are structured the same way.

Recommended Action

STATE LIBRARY NETWORK COORDINATING COUNCIL	STATE LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER	DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES	MARYLAND LIBRARIES
The Coordinating Council, working with the State Library Resource Center, the Division of Library Development and Services, and the libraries that are current or potential contributors to the Statewide Union Catalog will determine the date by which all records contributed to the catalog will be in MARC format. The Council will actively promote adoption of that format by the participating libraries.	SLRC will work with the Coordinating Council in promoting the MARC format for records contributed to the Statewide Union Catalog and encouraging libraries to adopt it as the standard.	DLDS will work with the Network Coordinating Council in promoting the MARC format for records contributed to the Statewide Union Catalog and encouraging libraries to adopt it as the standard.	Maryland libraries should adopt the MARC format as the standard for their machine-readable records, both for contribution to the Statewide Union Catalog as well as for their own automation efforts.
Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing

Objective 2.4 **By 1995, Maryland libraries will provide reciprocal access to local community information files.**

Rationale: Maryland residents need access to local information files, such as those that list local civic groups or social service agencies in their home and other counties. Different types of libraries have different local information resources available.

The Public Library Association's Community Information Section is currently working on creating a national standard MARC format for information files. As Maryland libraries adopt and implement a MARC format, more complete access to the files will be possible.

Recommended Action

STATE LIBRARY NETWORK COORDINATING COUNCIL	DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES	MARYLAND LIBRARIES
In conjunction with the Division of Library Devlopment and Services, the Coordinating Council will explore the possibility of adopting the standard format for information files and prepare a proposal for its adoption and implementation.	1) Based on the adoption of the national standard format for information files, DLDS will encourage each public library system to adopt and implement the standard, facilitating the process as appropriate.	1) Maryland libraries, working with the Coordinating Council, will help adopt a standard format for information files and help prepare a proposal for its implementation.
Completion date: January 1, 1991	Completion date: January 1, 1992	Completion date: January 1, 1992

CONT'D

Objective 2.4 By 1995, Maryland libraries will provide reciprocal access to local community information files.

DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES	MARYLAND LIBRARIES
2) DLDS will encourage public library systems to make their information files available to other libraries through appropriate means, facilitating the process as necessary.	2) Libraries will adopt and implement the the standard format for their information files as appropriate.
Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: January 1, 1992
	3) Libraries should convert their information files to the standard format and make their files available to other libraries.
	Completion date: June 30, 1995

Objective 2.5 By 1995, libraries will have access to appropriate governmental databases.

By 2000, Maryland residents will have direct access to appropriate governmental databases.

Rationale: Maryland's state and local governments generate numerous electronic databases that are potentially useful to all Maryland residents. Publicly-funded databases and other resources should be readily accessible to Maryland residents, with appropriate protections for personal confidentiality and security of the records.

Paper state documents are distributed statewide through the State Documents Depository Office, which was instituted in 1982. Now, however, many paper documents are being supplanted by electronic databases, which are not generally distributed, nor are many of them readily accessible by libraries or by individuals. The federal government is currently addressing these same kinds of issues.

Maryland libraries must understand the needs of their users and provide information about how to access state and local government information.

Recommended Action:

MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LIBRARIES	DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES	STATE LIBRARY NETWORK COORDINATING COUNCIL	MARYLAND LIBRARIES
The Advisory Council, in conjunction with DLDS, will promote the creation and implementation of a state information policy.	1) Working with state and local government agencies, DLDS will identify which state and locally generated databases are useful and suggest appropriate means for accessing them.	The Network Coordinating Council will work with DLDS to promote access by Maryland residents to governmental information.	Maryland libraries will work with their local and parent institutions to promote access to appropriate databases by Maryland residents.
Completion date: June 30, 1992	Completion date: June 30, 1995	Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing
	2) Working with state and local government agencies, DLDS will explore and promote direct access to appropriate databases by Maryland residents through libraries and from home, workplace, or school.		
	Completion date: June 30, 1995 (access through libraries); June 30, 2000 (by remote access)		

CONT'D

Objective 2.5 By 1995, libraries will have access to appropriate governmental databases.

By 2000, Maryland residents will have direct access to appropriate governmental databases.

DIVISION OF LIBRARY
DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES

3) Working with the State Document Depository Council and the Network Coordinating Council, DLDS will reconsider the present state document depository system and make recommendations for changing/expanding it.

Completion date: June 30, 1992

4) Working with the Maryland Advisory Council on Libraries, DLDS will promote the creation and implementation of a state information policy.

Completion date: June 30, 1992

Objective 2.6 **By 1993, Maryland residents will have access through libraries to the information available in commercial electronic databases.**

Rationale: Increasing amounts and varieties of information, including full text formats, are available in electronic form, such as online databases and on compact disc. Electronic databases offer faster and more comprehensive searching for current information. Information retrieved can often be organized to meet the individual's particular needs.

Currently, the availability of electronic databases in Maryland's libraries varies widely. In conjunction with other reference services, Maryland libraries should offer appropriate electronic databases to meet the information needs of users.

Recommended Action:

STATE LIBRARY NETWORK COORDINATING COUNCIL	DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES	STATE LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER	PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS
The Network Coordinating Council will work with libraries to develop, promote, facilitate the use of electronic databases as information sources in Maryland libraries. The Council will monitor and work to resolve possible increased demands on the Network as users' access to wider resources increases.	1) DLDS, working with the Network Coordinating Council, will explore and implement appropriate brokered access to electronic databases, including CD-ROM and online databases, bibliographic, and full text. Issues of copyright and licensing payments will be studied and addressed. DLDS will also facilitate the placement of appropriate electronic databases in all public library systems.	1) SLRC, in coordination with the RLRCs and other libraries in the state, will make available a selection of electronic databases to help meet the the resource sharing and information needs of Maryland libraries.	(1) Every public library system should have a basic selection of electronic and databases available to them in support of reference activities.
Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: June 30, 1993	Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: June 30, 1993

CONT'D

Objective 2.6 By 1993, Maryland residents will have access through libraries to the information available in commercial electronic databases.

DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES	STATE LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER	PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS
2) Working with the Network Coordinating Council, DLDS will explore making MILNET a gateway for electronic databases access. Completion date: June 30, 1991	2) As improved access to resources and information increases the demand made on the Network, SLRC will work with the Coordinating Council and Maryland libraries to resolve policy, protocol and delivery issues as they arise. Completion date: Ongoing	2) Public libraries should make appropriate electronic databases, with instructional support, available to their users and actively promote their use. Completion date: Ongoing
3) In conjunction with the Network Coordinating Council and Maryland libraries, DLDS will promote the use of electronic databases while helping the State Library Network to meet the the demands created by that use. Completion date: Ongoing		3) Public libraries will help study and subsequently make policy recommendations about fee versus free access to electronic databases through public libraries. Completion date: June 30, 1991
4) Working with the Network Coordinating Council and the public library systems, DLDS will study and make recommendations for policies for public libraries about fee versus free access to electronic databases through the state's public libraries. Completion date: June 30, 1991		

CONT'D

Objective 2.6 By 1993, Maryland residents will have access through libraries to the information available in commercial electronic databases.

REGIONAL LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTERS	ACADEMIC LIBRARIES	SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS
Working with their constituent libraries and SLRC, the RLRCs will make available a selection of more specialized electronic databases to support resource sharing needs in their regions and within the state.	Academic libraries should make appropriate electronic database access available, with instructional support, to their users and actively promote their use.	School library media centers should make appropriate electronic databases available to their users, with instructional support, and actively promote their use.
Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing

GOAL 3

Maryland residents will receive the information, materials and services they need through efficient, timely, appropriate and diverse delivery methods.

Objective 3.1 **By 1995, 75 percent of libraries in the State Library Network will have telefacsimile (FAX) machines for document delivery.**

Rationale: Telefacsimile equipment and FAX boards for microcomputers are now widely available, reliable, and cost-effective, offering libraries a new means for faster transfer of information, documents and requests. It is possible through FAX to send copies of materials that could not be lent; information and documents can be put into the hands of users quickly and directly. Not as much material will have to be physically delivered, easing the burden of the delivery system.

Of the more than 700 libraries of all sizes and kinds currently participating in the Network, it is anticipated that approximately 525 will install FAX equipment by 1995.

Recommended Action:

STATE LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER

SLRC will facilitate, coordinate and promote the implementation of telefacsimile (FAX) use by libraries in the State Library Network.

Completion date: June 30, 1995

DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES

DLDS will actively encourage the placement of FAX equipment in libraries participating in the State Library Network through funding and other means.

Completion date: June 30, 1995

MARYLAND LIBRARIES

1) Maryland libraries are encouraged to install FAX equipment, thus providing a rapid means of transferring information, documents, and requests.

Completion date: Ongoing

2) Library systems are encouraged to install FAX equipment in their branch locations as appropriate to their systems' needs.

Completion date: Ongoing

Objective 3.2 **An electronic bulletin board system with calendaring and conferencing capabilities will be available to all interested libraries.**

Rationale: An electronic bulletin board, with calendaring and conferencing capabilities, will enable libraries to coordinate the scheduling of meetings, workshops and other library events. Through the conferencing capability, library staff can jointly work on documents and reports, as well as hold "discussions" via the system. The bulletin board will provide information about any subject of interest to libraries, providing a common communication forum.

Currently, no central, current calendar or communication system is available to Maryland's libraries. Given the complexity and diversity of the activities these libraries are undertaking, an effective communications system is needed.

Recommended Action:

DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES	MARYLAND LIBRARIES
1) DLDS will facilitate the implementation of an interactive electronic bulletin board with conferencing capabilities and a statewide calendar system.	All Maryland libraries will be encouraged to use the electronic bulletin board/conferencing system/ statewide calendar as a means of interlibrary communication and coordination.
Completion date: June 30, 1992	Completion date: Ongoing, following installation.
2) DLDS will list its workshops, meetings, etc. on the calendar and actively encourage other library agencies to do the same.	
Completion date: Ongoing, following installation.	

Objective 3.3 **Maryland residents will have access to an after-hours telephone information service to help meet their information needs.**

Rationale: Many Maryland libraries are not available to users after 9 p.m. and have no Sunday hours. This "Night Owl" telephone information service will help to meet Maryland residents' information needs during the hours when libraries are generally closed.

The "Night Owl" service builds on the successful centralized reference service available in several Maryland library systems. While telephone is the primary form of access to be used, electronic mail and other alternatives will also be considered.

Recommended Action:

STATE LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER	MARYLAND LIBRARIES
SLRC will develop, implement, and promote a "Night Owl" service to meet users' information needs during the hours when the state's libraries are not available.	Libraries should actively promote this service to their user.
Completion date: June 30, 1990	Completion date: Ongoing, after implementation

Objective 3.4 **The effectiveness of the State Library Network's physical delivery system will be studied and subsequent recommendations for upgrades/alternatives implemented.**

Rationale: The last thorough study of the physical delivery system was in the 1970s. While the present system functions, it is becoming severely taxed and occasionally breaks down. An efficient delivery system is essential to the goal of timely delivery of materials to users.

Recommended Action:

STATE LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER	DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES
SLRC, working with DLDS, will study the Network's physical delivery system, make recommendations for upgrades and/or alternatives, then implement the recommendations as appropriate.	DLDS will work with SLRC in the study and subsequent implementation of recommendations for improving the Network's physical delivery system.
Completion date: January 1, 1991	Completion date: January 1, 1991

Objective 3.5 **The Network will adopt and promote measures to improve turnaround time through the increased decentralization and distribution of ILL traffic.**

Rationale: As online systems, FAX, optical scanning, and other technological developments make it easier for libraries to borrow direct from other libraries rather than going through a "broker," appropriate protocols and policies must be established and used so that borrowing is orderly and efficient. A major concern is the drain, particularly on resources and staff time, of libraries that are heavy lenders to the Network. Funding should also be addressed. Appropriate statistics should be determined and systematically collected and made available.

Objective 3.1 of the Maryland Plan for Libraries states that: "By 1989, users of the State Library Network will obtain 88 percent of their requests, and 75 percent of these will be filled within one week of the date submitted by their library to the Network." A similar objective is anticipated in the next five year plan.

Recommended Action:

STATE LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER	DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES	MARYLAND LIBRARIES
SLRC will study the present borrowing/ lending patterns, help make recommendations for changes in the local protocols, and work with all Network libraries to implement appropriate changes.	1) DLDS will participate in the study of the present borrowing/lending patterns and help make recommendations about how the loan protocols should be changed, then work with Network libraries to implement appropriate changes.	Maryland libraries that are major lenders and/or borrowers in the State Library Network, including the RLRCs, backup referral libraries, and other particularly active participants, will participate in the study of present borrowing/lending patterns, make recommendations about how the loan protocols should be changed, and work with other libraries to implement appropriate changes.
Completion date: June 30, 1991	Completion date: June 30, 1991	Completion date: June 30, 1991
	2) DLDS will coordinate the collection and publication of appropriate Network statistics.	
	Completion date: Ongoing	

Objective 3.6 **Maryland residents' requests for library resources will be more successfully filled as a result of cooperative collection development.**

Rationale: As the cost of library materials and their processing/maintenance increase, libraries find it necessary to limit the scope of their acquisitions and to participate in arrangements for the coordinated purchase of materials among groups of libraries. Improved access to information about library collections through the Statewide Union Catalog and through systems like OCLC are means of supporting these activities.

Recommended Action

STATE LIBRARY NETWORK COORDINATING COUNCIL

The Coordinating Council will encourage coordinated collection development among Maryland libraries. The objective is to determine collection strategies and to promote their implementation. The Council will work with DLDS, SLRC and public, academic, and school libraries.

Completion date: June 30, 1993

STATE LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER

SLRC, working with its Advisory Committee, will complete and implement its collection development plan for Enoch Pratt Free Library as the state's resource center.

Completion date: January 1, 1990

PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS

Public libraries will reconsider their collection development plans, make appropriate changes, and participate in local, regional, and state collection development strategies.

Completion date: Ongoing

ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

1) Academic libraries will initiate and/or regularly update their collection development plans, making changes as appropriate, and work with other Maryland libraries in cooperative collection development projects.

Completion date: Ongoing

2) The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) should encourage coordinated collection development planning among Maryland academic libraries.

Completion date: Ongoing

CONT'D

Objective 3.6 Maryland residents' requests for library resources will be more successfully filled as a result of cooperative development.

SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS	REGIONAL LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTERS
School library media centers should develop, and regularly update, their collection development plans, use the plans as they acquire materials, and participate with other school systems in cooperative collection development projects.	The RLRCs should develop and regularly update their collection development plans and use the plans as they acquire materials. RLRC collection development activities should be coordinated with their host and member libraries.
Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing

Objective 3.7 **Maryland libraries will use the State Library Network more effectively as the result of Network training and promotional programs.**

Rationale: The State Library Network's effectiveness depends on successful promotion and efficient use of the Network's services. Library staff and Maryland residents must be made aware of available services and how to best use them, then be encouraged to use them.

Recommended Action:

STATE LIBRARY NETWORK COORDINATING COUNCIL	DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES	STATE LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER	COOPERATING LIBRARIES OF CENTRAL MARYLAND
The Coordinating Council, in conjunction with DLDS, SLRC, the RLRCs, CLCM, and other groups, will actively promote and encourage the the development of programs to train libraries in the most effective use of the Network.	DLDS will promote Network services to current and potential participants, as well as initiate and promote training for current, new, and expanded Network services.	SLRC will promote Network services to current and potential participants, as well as initiate and promote training for current, new, and expanded Network services.	CLCM will promote Network services to current and new Network participants in its service area, as well as participate in training for current, new, and expanded services.
Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing

CONT'D

Objective 3.7 Maryland libraries will use the State Library Network more effectively as the result of Network training and promotional programs.

REGIONAL LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTERS	ALL MARYLAND LIBRARIES
The RLRCs will promote Network services to current and new Network participants, as well as participate in training for current, new, and expanded services.	Maryland libraries should encourage their staffs to participate in training and promotional programs that will enable them to make better use of the Network. Release time and other support should be available to enable staff to participate.
Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing

GOAL 4

Maryland residents will have improved access to the state's resources and information services through promotion and implemention of new information technologies.

Objective 4.1 **By 1995, the majority of the bibliographic records of Maryland libraries will be accessible online by libraries and by individuals.**

Rationale: Maryland's libraries are steadily automating their operations, particularly circulation, with some libraries also adding online public access catalogs of their bibliographic holdings. Other libraries are accessing information about their collections through CD-ROM catalogs. In 1990, the University of Maryland System will bring each of its campus libraries online. Some of the public school systems are beginning to automate their library catalogs. Many other libraries are at least planning automation projects.

Access to Maryland libraries' online systems will enable libraries to determine if a given library has an item and the item's current status, i.e., if it is on the shelf or checked out. While the current Statewide Union Catalog provides index information about which libraries have what items, it is not a current catalog, nor does it provide status information. Currently, an increasing number of libraries offer remote access via computer to their online systems providing a very useful means of getting current status information, thus helping to speed up the turnaround time for filling requests.

As more libraries plan and implement online access to their catalogs and other databases, there will be protocol and policy issues relating to Network resource sharing activities which must be addressed. How this kind of access relates to the ultimate goal of linkage among online systems also needs to be considered in order to promote the next level of implementation when the time is right.

Recommended Action:

STATE LIBRARY NETWORK COORDINATING COUNCIL	MARYLAND LIBRARIES
The Coordinating Council will lead in the promotion of remote access to local online systems. An appointed work group will determine the current remote access capabilities of Maryland libraries, encourage libraries to add or improve this capability in their systems, and coordinate protocol and policy issues related to Network traffic.	1) Each Maryland library that implements electronic access to its catalog should consider, and provide if possible, remote access to its system as a means of widening access to current information, including item status, about its collection.
Completion date: Work group appointed by January 1, 1991; work is ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing

CONT'D

Objective 4.1 By 1995, the majority of the bibliographic records of Maryland libraries will be accessible online by libraries and by individuals.

MARYLAND LIBRARIES

2) Libraries that offer remote access should work with the Coordinating Council, and each other, to adopt standard policies and protocols to make this access effective but not burdensome.

Completion date: Ongoing

Objective 4.2 **A Task Force on Linking Library Systems will explore and make recommendations on possible means of linking the library information and bibliographic databases created by publicly-funded libraries available now and in the future.**

By 2000, all publicly-funded library information and bibliographic databases will be accessible by all Maryland libraries and individual users.

Rationale: Many Maryland libraries have been using computer technology to provide better access to their collections. The lack of common standards, policies, and protocols limits the ability of libraries and users to determine the availability of information of specific items in other libraries. We need to build on existing strengths to provide direct online access by establishing electronic links among Maryland libraries of all sizes and types, and ensuring links to database systems beyond Maryland's borders.

The links, or interfaces, involve a number of elements: the technological capability of intelligent computer-to-computer communication; the coordination of accessibility such as who will have access to what systems under what circumstances; training of the person who initiates a search to make effective use of the linking; and the necessary legal, physical, and cooperative agreements. Applicable national standards must be adopted and implemented.

As Maryland libraries open access to their systems, linking capabilities and the technological and political support for them are increasingly important to those who need that information. It is imperative that there is a concerted effort in Maryland to provide open, standard access to all available bibliographic and information databases. Ultimately, it will lead to the availability of a "statewide online public access catalog," affirming the role of Maryland libraries as primary information providers in Maryland.

Recommended Action:

STATE LIBRARY NETWORK COORDINATING COUNCIL	MARYLAND LIBRARIES
1) The Coordinating Council will appoint a Task Force on Linking Library Systems to make recommendations on linking Maryland's online library systems. The Task Force will consider what is possible now and design a framework with strategies for future linking developments appropriate to the needs of Maryland libraries.	1) Maryland libraries that automate their operations should adopt and implement the Task Force recommendations appropriate to their situations.
Completion date: Task Force will be appointed by June 30, 1991; report due June 30, 1992.	Completion date: Ongoing

CONT'D

Objective 4.2 **A Task Force on Linking Library Systems will explore and make recommendations on possible means of linking the library information and bibliographic databases created by publicly-funded libraries available now and in the future.**

By 2000, all publicly-funded library information and bibliographic databases will be accessible by all Maryland libraries and individual users.

STATE LIBRARY NETWORK COORDINATING COUNCIL	MARYLAND LIBRARIES
2) The Coordinating Council should set up ongoing monitoring of linking capabilities; promotion of linking standards among libraries that are automating; and encouragement for libraries and individuals to use the systems that are linked.	2) Maryland libraries should avail themselves of the linking capabilities available within the state and promote access by their users as appropriate.
Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing

Objective 4.3 **By 1995, all publicly-funded libraries will be linked by a dedicated state telecommunications system.**

Rationale: Fundamental to any linking and gateway activities is a dedicated telecommunications system that reaches each of Maryland's counties and Baltimore City. With the necessary telecommunications network in place, libraries will be able to considerably reduce their costs and simplify their access to commercial electronic databases, to linked online library systems, to electronic bulletin board/calendaring systems, and to other information technology developments that will improve the services they offer their users. Access by privately-funded libraries, such as school and special libraries, is also desirable.

As the State Library Network's stakeholders work to ensure the installation of the telecommunications system, it is important that the system adheres to the applicable national standards for voice, digital, and any other form of data transfer appropriate to Maryland's libraries.

The Maryland Department of General Services' Office of Telecommmunications Management and the University of Maryland System are working toward the creation of a dedicated telecommunications system in the state. Libraries throughout the state will be able to "piggyback" their long distance telecommunications activities on the system. It is essential that Maryland's libraries, and the groups that represent them, make themselves a part of the process that will help bring the system to fruition.

Recommended Action:

STATE LIBRARY NETWORK COORDINATING COUNCIL	DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES	PUBLICLY-FUNDED MARYLAND LIBRARIES	MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
1) The Coordinating Council should participate in the promotion, development, and implementaion of a state telecommunications system to reach every Maryland county and Baltimore City.	DLDS should work with the Coordinating Council to promote and implement a state telecommunications system. This will include working with other divisions of the State Department of Education to coordinate school library media access to the backbone.	1) Publicly-funded Maryland libraries should develop institutional and/or system plans for utilizing the the state telecommunications system.	1) MHEC should promote the development and implementation of a state telecommunications system to meet the needs of publicly-funded institutions of higher education.
Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing

CONT'D

Objective 4.3 By 1995, all publicly-funded libraries will be linked by a dedicated state telecommunications system.

STATE LIBRARY NETWORK COORDINATING COUNCIL	PUBLICLY-FUNDED MARYLAND LIBRARIES	MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
2) The Council should develop a plan for linking publicly-funded libraries to the system, including creating policies on funding and phased implementation. The Council should promote access to the system by privately-funded special and school libraries.	2) Libraries should work with one another within their counties, cities, or other configurations to develop cost-sharing mechanisms and to coordinate area-wide access to the system.	2) MHEC should promote planning among academic libraries to link with the system, including designing and implementing appropriate cost-sharing arrangements.
Completion date: June 30, 1993	Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing

Objective 4.4 **By 1995, the State Library Network Coordinating Council will explore and encourage the implementation of appropriate emerging telecommunications technologies.**

Rationale: In order to realize the full potential of libraries as the access point to all the information resources of the state, libraries need to make advanced telecommunications opportunities available to the residents of the state. This should include voice, video, and data communications.

Electronic mail/conferencing systems can provide an excellent common communication system for all kinds of libraries, supporting resource sharing of information, documents, staff expertise, etc. Distance learning systems will make statewide continuing education activities and staff development activities available to staff members in their home libraries, thus removing the need and expense of travel to a central location. Library programming, such as humanities programs, could be shared statewide with a teleconferencing system.

The implementation of these telecommunications capabilities will enhance the role of the library as a community resource. When not used for library functions, teleconferencing facilities will be available for other meetings, such as a statewide town meeting on the fate of the Chesapeake Bay. Rarely is there such an opportunity for a basic improvement in library operations to become also an additional resource for the entire community.

Recommended Action:

STATE LIBRARY NETWORK COORDINATING COUNCIL	DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES	UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND'S COLLEGE OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES	STATE LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER
The Coordinating Council should create a group, including SLRC, DLDS, and MHEC, to study and make recommendations about ways advanced telecommunications applications could be used to improve resource sharing among Maryland's libraries. The Council should then work with appropriate agencies to promote the implementation of promising new applications.	DLDS should incorporate knowledge of new technologies in state-sponsored continuing education programs to support the State Library Network, to promote resource sharing, and to encourage knowledge and the use of advantaged telecommunications.	CLIS should address emerging telecommunications technologies in its research activities and share the results with the library community.	SLRC will investigate the implementation of a teleconferencing/distance learning center at Pratt Central to support resource sharing and staff development opportunities as well as a statewide reading for the blind program.
Completion date: Study Group appointed by January 1, 1991;	Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: June 30, 1993

Objective 4.5 **The State Library Network Coordinating Council will explore and promote the implementation of enhanced information technologies in libraries.**

Rationale: In order to realize the full potential of libraries in providing access to information that is now scattered among various media and not organized in interrelated systems, libraries need to plan now to make use of recent technological developments for storing and organizing information. Some of the more promising technologies include hypermedia, optical scanning, expert systems, and artificial intelligence.

Keeping up with current developments and implementing them most effectively in libraries is frequently difficult as well as time-consuming. The State Library Network Coordinating Council should lead in the exploration and promotion of applications in Maryland's libraries. A group appointed by the Council should consider ways of applying new information technologies within the Network to improve resource sharing and promote the implementation of the most promising ones.

The new technologies also provide libraries with opportunities to demonstrate their role in contributing to entrepreneurial activities that will promote economic development both statewide and in local communities. For example, a focus on services for the individual entrepreneur or small business owner has real potential for improving service to a group that has high information needs and limited financial resources. The State Library Network could serve as a catalyst to bring libraries together in these efforts, building on already strong adoption of the most promising libraries.

Recommended Action:

STATE LIBRARY NETWORK COORDINATING COUNCIL	DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES	MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION	ACADEMIC LIBRARIES
The Coordinating Council should create a task force to explore advanced information technologies that would enhance the potential of the Network to improve statewide resource sharing, including the sharing expertise and software, and to promote the adoption of the most promising applications.	DLDS should encourage improvements in library service delivery by funding the development of cooperative pilot projects that apply new information technologies to library activities and processes.	MHEC should consider establishing a liaison with research and development groups within the Maryland academic community to promote the cooperative development of new information technologies in library applications.	Academic libraries should be encouraged to work with university business incubator programs and other university initiatives that promote entrepreneurial activities to develop cooperative pilot projects.
Completion date: Task force appointed by June 30, 1991; work will be ongoing.	Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing

CONT'D

Objective 4.5 The State Library Network Coordinating Council will explore and promote the implementation of enhanced information technologies in libraries.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS	SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS	UNIVERSITY Of MARYLAND'S COLLEGE OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES
Public libraries should work with local economic development agencies and high technology councils to develop cooperative pilot programs to meet the information needs of entrepreneurs and organizations that contribute to economic development.	School library media centers should work with school district business and cooperative education programs to develop pilot projects that will support student entrepreneurial and work/study programs. They should also seek other funding sources for pilot projects, especially grant sources.	CLIS should address enhanced information technologies in its research activities and share the results with the library community.
Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing	Completion date: Ongoing

CONTEXT FOR RESOURCE SHARING AND AUTOMATION:
Background Information on the State Library Network

PURPOSE OF THE STATE LIBRARY NETWORK

The purpose of the Maryland State Library Network is set out in Goal 3 in the Maryland Plan for Libraries 1986-1991: "Residents of Maryland will be able to obtain library materials and gain access to information not available in their local library..."

Each Maryland resident is eligible to borrow from any public library in the state. Many of the state's higher education institutions also make their collections readily available to any user. Maryland has a strong reciprocal borrowing policy supported by significant bibliographic finding tools available in a variety of formats, by physical delivery links that cover the state, and by a resource sharing network that brings users and materials together.

In a state rich in its variety of libraries, some with outstanding, nationally recognized collections, resource sharing and mutual cooperation have a long history, some of which preceeds the present state network.

STATE LIBRARY NETWORK PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR HISTORY

The basic framework of the State Library Network consists of the State Library Resource Center (SLRC), the three Regional Library Resource Centers (RLRC's), four contractual backup libraries, and over 100 referral libraries that supply direct statewide access to local collections and staff expertise. Currently, every Maryland library can be a member of the State Library Network. There are no membership fees. Approximately 700 libraries of all types participate in the Network. While the first three components of the Network are hierarchically structured and state-funded, the referral libraries constitute an essential, if less formal, Network component. Resource sharing network protocols are in effect, and there is no financial exchange for service.

A centrally organized interlibrary loan network has operated in Maryland for 29 years. In 1960, the State Department of Education contracted with the Enoch Pratt Free Library to provide interlibrary loan and reference services to the county library systems in Maryland. In 1971 the Central Branch of the Pratt system was designated as the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) by the Maryland General Assembly, and state funds were appropriated for its operation. The Maryland Interlibrary Organization, formerly Pratt's County Services Department, handles ILL and information requests referred to the Pratt Library in its role as the state's library of last resort.

Three Regional Library Resource Centers were also established and funded through the 1971 Public Library Law: the Eastern Shore Regional Library at the Wicomico County Free Library in Salisbury; the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association, Charlotte Hall; and the Western Maryland Public Libraries at the Washington County Free Library in Hagerstown. The centers are designed to provide information, materials, and services not available locally in the

14 rural counties they serve. They also link the local libraries in each region and the State Library Resource Center for interlibrary loan and information services.

While the State Library Resource Center and the Regional Library Resource Centers serve an important role in the provision of interlibrary loan of materials and information, they also undertake other essential resource sharing activities. The State Library Resource Center conducts inservice training statewide; offers consultation services; provides value-added services; and promotes cooperative activities throughout the Network. SLRC also has operational responsibility for the State Union Database and MILNET, Maryland's online interlibrary loan system. The RLRC's supply collections of specialized materials; provide consultant services; offer inservice training for library staffs; and develop and operate cooperative services among libraries.

The four contractual backup libraries provide referral services based on the specialized research or subject nature of their collections. McKeldin Library at the University of Maryland, College Park, became a backup library to Enoch Pratt and the Network in 1968. It was followed by the Johns Hopkins University Eisenhower Library (FY 1976), the Health Sciences Library of the University of Maryland at Baltimore (FY 1981), and the Welch Medical Library of the Johns Hopkins University (FY 1982).

The ongoing strength of the Maryland State Library Network lies in the reservoir of resources held in the libraries and the various means to access them; the good will of library staff and administration who participate in the Network because it enhances local service; and the continuing leadership of the Division of Library Development and Services, the State Library Resource Center, and the Regional Library Resource Centers.

Other players indirectly support the State Library Network. Some OCLC and RLIN members provide interlibrary loan directly to their member libraries in Maryland. There are 93 OCLC libraries in Maryland, with their services brokered through four different networks (CAPON, FEDLINK, PALINET and PRLC). There is one RLIN library in the state. Maryland's health sciences libraries participate in the National Library of Medicine's Regional Medical Library System. Some public library systems not served by RLRCs have local interlibrary loan links to serve their patrons.

The Cooperating Libraries of Central Maryland (CLCM) also supports resource sharing activities, such as an active direct loan program in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area. It was through CLCM's initiative that the Union List of Periodicals in Maryland was started. Currently CLCM offers continuing education and information programs. It also manages the Library Associates Training Program.

LAW, FUNDING, AND GOVERNANCE OF THE STATE LIBRARY NETWORK

While there is no single article of Maryland law authorizing the State Library Network, several sections deal with most of the key Network players. The law authorizes the Division of Library Development and Services to "develop statewide public and school library services and networks, resource centers, and other arrangements to meet the library and information needs of the state." (23-105) Other sections of the law establish the State Library Resource Center (23-202) and metropolitan cooperatives like the Cooperating Libraries of Central Maryland (23-203). The funding for each of these groups is covered in 23-205.

Overall Network administration is the responsibility of the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Library Development and Services (MSDE, DLDS). Contractual backup agreements are also negotiated, funded, and administered by DLDS. DLDS administers funds with the advice and support of advisory committees and appropriate Boards of Trustees for SLRC and the RLRC's. The Maryland Advisory Council on Libraries advises DLDS, the State Superintendent of Education, the State Board of Education, and the Governor on library matters.

Special funding of the State Library Network began in 1962 when the State Department of Education funded the ongoing costs of the Enoch Pratt Free Library as it served as a backup source for needed materials for the county libraries around the state. Regular state aid for the primary Network agencies came with the passage of the law in 1971 authorizing the creation of the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) and the Regional Library Resource Centers (RLRC's).

The funding for the State Library Resource Center was improved in 1977 when a Governor's Committee recommended 100 percent state funding for Pratt's functions which have primarily statewide implications, and 100 percent city funding for those functions which relate only to serving the residents of Baltimore City. The remainder of the operating costs of the Central Library would be paid on a 50/50 ratio between the city and state.

The State Library Resource Center is the hub of the State Library Network, managing much of the Network's traffic and support. The delivery system is centered here. The vital work of keeping the State Union Catalogs current and accurate is done by SLRC staff, as is the coordination of MILNET activities, including training and troubleshooting. The SLRC Advisory Committee works with the SLRC staff to plan and advise SLRC on its services and activities each year. This committee is representative of size, type, and geographic location of libraries active in the Network.

Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) Title III funds were the first source of funds for developing regional libraries before they were designated as RLRCs. Throughout the years, LSCA III funds have supported a number of network/technology projects. Currently these funds are used for the production of the State Union Catalog, which provides access to the collections of 91 libraries, and ongoing support of MILNET, the online interlibrary loan system.

Each Regional Library Resource Center has an Advisory Board that helps plan and coordinate its activities. The Boards are representative of the libraries which are members of the Regionals. The Board of Trustees of the host library has the financial responsibility for the Regional.

The RLRC's received an increase in their funding in FY 1988 as the result of a Governor's Task Force on Regional Resource Center Programs. The "new money" is going into the purchase of materials to increase the local fill rates, as well as increased staffing for widening their services. Money is also available for automation activities.

ACCESS TO NETWORK SERVICES

Access to Network services includes both communication among the participants and the ability to locate needed materials and information. Access for these purposes has become increasingly sophisticated in the last five years due to the introduction of automation.

Communication among participants for resource sharing, such as placing an interlibrary loan or information request, is conducted by a variety of methods. From 1965 to 1976, 30 library systems were linked by teletype and TWX machines. Now libraries use a combination of mail, telephone, delivery systems, electronic mail, online access through MILNET, and bibliographic utilities like OCLC and RLIN. The most recent means is via telefacsmile (FAX), which links some 60 libraries. Exploratory planning is now underway for developing a link between the Statewide Union Catalog on compact disc (CD-ROM) and MILNET through the CD's interlibrary loan software, thus connecting many more libraries to the most current information on holdings and location of materials.

Access to information about what materials are owned by which libraries in the state is increasingly available through the Statewide Union Catalog. The catalog was first issued in 1975 on microfilm as MICROCAT I, and it included the holdings of eight libraries. The catalog has grown steadily in size and format. In 1989 the catalog has three major components:

- MICROCAT 12 (materials with publication dates of 1970-present)
- OLDCAT 2 (materials with publication dates through 1969)
- ULPM 6 (serials only)

Ninety-one libraries contributed 2.1 million bibliographic records and 4 million holdings to these editions of the catalog. Three formats are available: microfiche, CD-ROM and online through MILNET. Maintenance and production of the union catalog is essentially supported by LSCA Title III funds.

MILNET, the statewide online resource sharing system, has been used since 1985 in 14 libraries statewide to improve the speed and ease of interlibrary loan traffic. Some of the libraries, like the RLRCs, serve as brokers for other libraries in their area. The Statewide Union Catalog resides and is maintained on MILNET.

OCLC, a national bibliographic utility that also supports interlibrary loan activities, is used by 93 Maryland libraries, including the State Library Resource Center. One Maryland library participates in both OCLC and RLIN, another national utility. These systems are particularly helpful in locating and requesting materials not available in Maryland libraries.

The lack of a basic telecommunications network (backbone) throughout the state limits the potential for wider and less expensive access to a variety of electronic systems, like MILNET and commercial information databases, for routine telefacsimile transmission beyond the local calling area, electronic bulletin boards, and conferencing systems. Libraries outside of major metropolitan areas generally have to pay long distance telephone charges to use these services which hinders their further implementation and makes expensive WATS lines necessary.

While all of these means of access are very important, the primary access point to the Network is the local library staff. If the library does not have what the user needs, the resources of Maryland's libraries, and frequently the resources of the nation, are available if the local staff initiates the interlibrary loan or information request on behalf of the user. Once that step is taken, the Network is committed to seeing that the user's needs are met.

In addition to the formal Network process in place in Maryland, considerable "networking" also occurs among the people, library associations, and library agencies that support libraries and librarians in their work. These groups provide inservice and continuing education opportunities; forums for discussing and finding solutions to the problems and issues which affect libraries; funds for new projects; and the chance to share expertise, wisdom, and ideas which help others to do their work better. These networking activities also contribute to the success of the Maryland State Library Network.